

IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title to read:

B¹ "CIRCUIT BOARD EJECTOR MECHANISM INCLUDING FLEXIBLE
COUPLING"

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached hereto.

Please cancel claims 12 – 21.

Please amend the following claims:

B² 1. A circuit board ejector mechanism operable to provide resiliently biased engagement between a first part of an electrical connector mounted on a circuit board and a mutually engaging second part of said electrical connector mounted on a back plane, said first and second parts of said electrical connector providing electrical connection for a plurality of electrical channels between said circuit board, said ejector mechanism comprising

an engaging projection mountable on a chassis with respect to which said back plane is mounted; and

a lever arm pivotally mountable about an axis that passes through said circuit board and configured to engage said engaging projection, said lever arm being operable to apply an engaging force to said engaging projection to urge said circuit board towards said back plane when moved from a first position to a second position, which engaging force causes said first and second parts of the connector to engage,

wherein said engagement of said lever arm and said engaging projection is provided by a flexible coupling which allows relative movement of said circuit board with respect to said back plane and a biasing force which biases said circuit board towards said back plane.

2. An ejector mechanism as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said flexible coupling is provided by said engaging projection being formed from a resiliently deformable material, said material providing said relative movement and said biasing force of said circuit board towards said back plane.

β² 3. An ejector mechanism as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said flexible coupling is provided by said engaging projection being formed by a rigid member slidably mounted on said back plane and a biasing member connected between said chassis and said engaging projection, said slidable mounting providing said relative movement and said biasing member providing said biasing force for biasing said circuit board towards said back plane.

β³ 5. An ejector mechanism as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said flexible coupling is provided by a mounting of said pivotably mounted lever arm on said circuit board that provides translatory as well as pivotal movement to provide said relative movement between said lever arm and said engaging projection, and a biasing member coupled to said pivotal mounting providing said biasing force for biasing said circuit board towards said back plane.

6. An assembly including a circuit board, a chassis and a back plane, a first part of an electrical connector being mounted on said circuit board and a mutually engaging second part of said electrical connector being mounted on said backplane, said first and second parts of said electrical connector providing electrical connection for a plurality of electrical channels between said circuit board and said back plane, said back plane being mounted with respect to said chassis, and

an ejector mechanism having:

an engaging projection mounted on said chassis; and

a lever arm pivotally mounted about an axis that passes through said circuit board and configured to engage said engaging projection, said lever arm being operable to apply an engaging force to said engaging projection to urge said circuit board towards said back plane

when moved from a first position to a second position, which engaging force causes said first and second parts of the connector to engage,

wherein said engagement of said lever arm and said engaging projection is provided by a flexible coupling which allows relative movement of said circuit board with respect to said back plane and a biasing force which biases said circuit board towards said back plane.

7. A circuit board comprising

a first part of an electrical connector arranged to mutually engage a second part of said electrical connector, which second part of said electrical connector is mounted on a back plane, said first and second parts of said electrical connector providing electrical connection for a plurality of electrical channels for said circuit board,

b3 a lever arm pivotally mounted about an axis that passes through said circuit board and configured to engage an engaging projection mounted on a chassis with respect to which said back plane is mounted, said lever arm being operable to apply an engaging force to said circuit board by engagement with said engaging projection when moved from a first position to a second position, which engaging force causes said first part of said electrical connector to engage with said second part of the connector, wherein said mounting of said pivotably mounted lever arm on said circuit board provides translatory as well as pivotal movement to provide relative movement between said lever arm and said engaging projection, and a biasing member coupled to said pivotal mounting providing a biasing force for biasing said circuit board towards said back plane.

8. A chassis supporting a back plane arranged to receive at least one circuit board, said back plane comprising

at least one second part of an electrical connector, mounted on said back plane and engageable with a first part of said electrical connector mounted on said circuit board, wherein

an engaging projection, engageable with a lever arm formed on said circuit board, is mounted on said chassis, said engaging projection providing a flexible coupling which allows relative movement of said circuit board with respect to said chassis, and thereby with respect to said back plane and a biasing force which biases said circuit board towards said back plane.

9. A chassis as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said engaging projection is formed from a resiliently deformable material, said material providing said relative movement and said biasing force of said circuit board towards said back plane.

10. A chassis as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said engaging projection is formed by a rigid member slidably mounted on said chassis and a biasing member connected between said chassis and said engaging projection, said slidable mounting providing said relative movement and said biasing member providing said biasing force for biasing said circuit board towards said back plane.

11. A chassis as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said biasing member is a spring or a resiliently deformable member.
